

**USE OF INHIBITORS OF THE ACTIVATION OF CXCR4  
RECEPTOR BY SDF-1 IN TREATING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

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**Abstract of The Disclosure**

10 This invention provides a method for treating rheumatoid  
arthritis or other forms of inflammatory arthritis which  
comprises administering to a subject an amount of an  
agent effective to inhibit the activation of the CXCR4  
receptor by SDF-1. This invention further provides a  
composition for treating rheumatoid arthritis comprising  
an effective amount of an agent capable of inhibiting  
15 the activation of the CXCR4 receptor by SDF-1 and a  
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. This invention also  
provides a method for determining whether an agent is  
capable of inhibiting the activation of the CXCR4  
receptor by SDF-1 comprising: (a) contacting cells  
20 expressing the CXCR4 receptor in the presence of SDF-1  
with the agent under condition permitting activation of  
the CXCR4 receptor by SDF-1 if the agent is absent; and  
(b) determining whether the amount of activation of the  
CXCR4 receptor by SDF-1 is decreased in the presence of  
25 the agent relative to the amount of activation in its  
absence, such a decrease indicating that the agent is  
capable of inhibiting the activation of the CXCR4  
receptor by SDF-1. Finally, this invention provides  
agents identified by such a method.

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